



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 56.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

CHICAGO PRINTING TRADES LOCKOUT

Chicago, May 11.--A serious contest is now in progress in this city between the Pressmen's Unions and the Chicago newspapers. It comes from authoritative sources that a preconcerted movement has been inaugurated by the publishers to destroy the efficiency of the organization involved. After the pressmen were locked out the stereotypers joined in sympathy with them and left their work. Negotiations are in progress, with the end in view of reaching a settlement of the controversy.

MAIL CLERK RESTORED

Washington, May 11.--President Taft has restored to his former position Charles H. Quackenbush, a railway mail clerk of Stamford, Conn., who was dismissed by Postmaster General Hitchcock in April, 1911, because he was active in the protest which arose when the postmaster general issued his famous "economy order". While Mr. Hitchcock was requested to reinstate Quackenbush by the congressional delegation from Connecticut, yet he refused and the case was then taken to the White House, with the result indicated.

PRINTERS GET INCREASE

Hamilton, Ont., May 11.--The local Typographical union has just entered into a new five year agreement with the newspaper publishers, and the new scale carries with it approximately a 15% increase. One radical change is the substitution of time work for piece work.

CIGARETTE MAKER NOMINATED FOR CONGRESS

Lancaster, Pa., May 11., --E. B. Greenswalt, ex-president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor and a member of the Cigarette Makers' Union, has been nominated for congressman-at-large on the Democratic ticket.

COMPARATIVE MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT

Washington, May 11.--The paid-up membership statement of the American Federation of Labor for April, 1912, shows an increase of 149,046 over that of April, 1911.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Washington, May 11.--In the consideration in the house of the post-office appropriation bill a section was adopted which reads as follows: "That on and after July 1, next, following the passage of this act, letter carriers in the city delivery service, and clerks in first and second class postoffices shall be required to work not more than eight-hours a day, provided that the eight hours of service shall not extend over a longer period than ten consecutive hours, and the schedule of duty of the employees shall be regulated accordingly; that in cases of emergency, or if the needs of the service require, letter carriers in the city delivery service and clerks in first and second class postoffices can be required to work in excess of eight-hours a day, and for such additional services they shall be paid extra in proportion to their salaries, as fixed by law; that should the needs of the service require the employment on Sunday of letter carriers in the city delivery service and clerks in first and second class postoffice the employees who are required and ordered to perform Sunday work shall be allowed compensatory time on one of the six days following the Sunday on which they perform such service."

SHERWOOD MAKES BRILLIANT SPEECH

Washington, May 11.--Congressman Isaac R. Sherwood of Ohio, a member of the International Typographical Union, recently made a brilliant and illuminating speech in the house. The house had resolved itself into a committee on the state of the union, having under consideration the bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913. The subject of the address was "Judicial Tyranny and the Remedy." It was one of the clearest expositions of the usurpations of the judiciary ever delivered in the house, and marshaled an array of questionable decisions handed down by the courts that was appalling. During a portion of the speech the congressman referred to the contempt case against President Gompers, Vice-President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, and scathingly arraigned Justice Wright for the part he played in the contempt case. This speech appeared in the Congressional Record of Friday, May 3, and is well worth perusal.

SECOND CLASS MAIL PROVISION

Washington, May 11.--During the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill an amendment was offered and adopted providing that all periodical publications issued as frequently as four times a year, and conducted under the auspices of trade unions and other specified societies, shall be admitted to the mails as second-class matter. The qualifications provided are that the association so issuing such publication shall have a bona fide membership of not less than 1,000 persons, and shall be limited to copies mailed to members, exchanges and bona fide subscribers, together with 10% of such circulation in addition as sample copies. These periodical publications are permitted to carry advertising matter, but they must not be designed or published primarily for advertising purposes, and shall be originated and published to further the objects and purposes of such trade unions or societies publishing same.

Six thousand workmen employed in the branch establishment of the Stettin Vulkan shipbuilding yards are on strike.

TRADE MOVEMENTS OF CARPENTERS

Indianapolis, May 11.--The local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters at St. Catharines, Ont., Can., gained an increase in wages from 35¢ to 40¢ per hour, and an increase of 2¢ per hour for foremen, without strike. The local union at Sheboygan, Wis., gained an increase of 3¢ per hour, making the minimum wage for carpenters in that city 43¢ per hour. At Joliet, Ill., the outside carpenters have gained an increase of 5¢ per hour with a present wage scale of 55¢ after a three days' strike. The mill men in the same city have just reached an agreement providing for an increase from 17¢ to 25¢ per hour, and an increase of 2¢ per hour for all men receiving over 25¢ to 30¢ inclusive. They also gained a reduction in hours from 10 to 9. These conditions were granted as a result of a strike lasting a month and all men are now back at work.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES

Cincinnati, May 11.--Secretary Jere L. Sullivan reports to headquarters that a systematic effort is being made by certain individuals, last heard from at Susquehanna, Pa., to get out fake labor directories and also selling fake unions bar labels. The Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America advises all concerned that no union bar label or union house card is now, or ever has been displayed in any town or city where bartenders, cooks or waiters remain unorganized. Neither have these cards ever been rented or sold to any person, firm or establishment. These labels are issued exclusively by local unions under a trade union agreement which provides for the sale of union-made products and the employment of members of local unions of this craft in good standing.

SHEET METAL WORKERS

Kansas City, Mo., May 11.--The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance has recently chartered local unions at Saskatoon, Can., Lincoln, Neb., Emporia, Kan., Jacksonville, Fla., Bar Harbor, Me., and Princeton, W. Va. The Sheet Metal Workers of Chicago have renewed their agreement with the employers covering a period of three years, during which time a series of wage increases have been conceded. The Kansas City local union has also entered into an agreement with the employers which concedes three wage increases within two years, together with the immediate introduction of the Saturday half holiday the year round. A lock-out, involving the Sheet Metal Workers of Worcester, Mass., of two weeks' duration, came to a close with a satisfactory settlement. The men secured a wage increase of 25¢ per day and other advantages covering hours of labor and pay for overtime.

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CARMEN

Kansas City, Mo., May 11.--The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has just organized two new lodges and taken over one which formerly was affiliated with the International Association of Car Workers, on account of that organization's non-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, and is located in the city of Chicago. The other two lodges organized are located at Windsor, Ont., Can. and Portal, N. D. The international organization has also sent out during the past week nearly \$5,000 to assist carmen that are on strike on the Harriman lines, Illinois Central and M. K. & T.

London, May 11.--A minimum wage for vocalists, including chorus girls, of \$12 for six evening performances, and \$1 for each matinee is the demand made by the Amalgamated Musicians' Union in a circular which has been sent to all theatrical and music hall managers and agents in this country. The union also asks that free rehearsals shall be limited to one week, and not exceed four hours a day, other rehearsals not exceeding four hours a day to be paid for at the rate of half salaries for week days and full salaries for Sundays. Another demand is that members of the chorus, engaged to perform in provincial tours or productions shall be paid their return fares from the place in which they have been engaged. It has always seemed extraordinary that poor chorus girls should be asked to attend a theatre for five or six weeks rehearsing and not be paid a penny, and it is contended that this, combined with the low wages paid when a play is in progress, is simply an incentive to immorality.

SEAMEN AND FIREMEN

Liverpool, May 11.--The Liverpool branch of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union has adopted resolutions to the effect that all seamen and firemen will refuse to sail on any steamer unless representatives of the union are allowed to inspect the life boats. The union also demands that the seamen's wages be increased to £4 10s, approximately \$22, and the firemen's wages to \$25 per month. The union also resolved that its members refuse to coal, load or provision any vessel which carries non-unionists or Chinese seamen. It was further stated that the men would give the signal for the sailors to strike upon the first refusal of a boat to carry out these orders. It is also stated that the men at Cardiff and other ports where higher wages are paid are ready to go out on strike in sympathy.

THE BUILDING TRADES

London, May 11.--There is a strong probability of a general strike taking place in both London and Manchester in the building trades. On June 8, the six months' notice given by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters to the Master Builders' Association will expire. The notice demands an advance of 1s 6d per hour upon the present rate of 10s 1d, as well as a reduction in the working hours. Meanwhile 17 of the building trades' unions are endeavoring to form a close alliance in order that decisive action may be taken should the occasion require. The situation at this time is tense and unless relief is afforded in the way of increased wages, strikes are bound to occur.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

London, May 11.--The secretary of the northeastern district of the Municipal Employees' Association has just made public the increases in wages secured by municipal employees during the year 1911. Space forbids giving a detailed account, but it can be stated that nearly all classes of labor employed by municipalities were the recipients of increased wages shortened hours and better working conditions. The total amount of concessions for the year amounts to approximately \$50,000.

A CHANGE IN PROGRAM

Washington, May 11.--The house committee on appropriation recently proposed to dismiss employees of the government in the classified service who had reached 65 years of age. This proposition was met with intense opposition and the committee finally announced that the obnoxious section would be stricken out. Later President Taft sent a message to congress approving the plan of the commission on economy and efficiency to retire all government employees upon reaching the age of 70 years, with annuities of one-half their salaries, with a maximum of \$600 per year. The plan provides that employees entering the service after the adoption of the superannuation scheme shall make annual contributions from their salaries to provide a retirement fund. The opening of this question undoubtedly will result in the inauguration of some retirement plan to cover all government employees in the classified service.

CIGARMAKERS AND STOGIEMAKERS

Washington, May 11.--Representatives of the International Cigarmakers Union and Stogiemakers met in Washington on May 3, 4 and 5 for the purpose of arriving at some basis upon which the stogiemakers might become affiliated with the International Cigarmakers' Union. The representatives of the cigarmakers offered extremely liberal terms to the stogiemakers, but the representatives of the latter organization refused the proposals, its representatives announcing that the stogiemakers' identity should not be submerged, and that the organization should, so far as its activities are concerned, remain in exactly the same position as it does now as an independent organization.

INCREASED COAL MARKET

Washington, May 11.--During the recent great strike of coal miners in England the large consumers of coal have looked to this country to supply the deficiency. While that strike is over it appears that the markets gained as a result of the British strike, are to be held in large part by this country. The heaviest shipments now being made are to South America, and should these markets be permanently held there will be a very large increase in the number of coal miners employed in the United States.

CHILD LABOR OPPOSED

Washington, May 11.--The employment of children under 16 years of age in factories and textile mills of the United States has been strongly denounced at the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church at its annual convention held in Minneapolis, Minn. A commission of ministers has been provided for the purpose of formulating an appeal to all churches to fight for national legislation against child labor.

LABOR'S MEMORIAL DAY

Washington, May 11.--It is desirable that all central bodies throughout the country be again notified that Labor's Memorial day occurs on Sunday, May 26. Information is coming to headquarters that a large number of central bodies have already made arrangements to observe that day fittingly.

PAPERMAKERS GAIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Holyoke, Mass., May 11.--As a result of a 15% advance made in the textile industry, the paper manufacturers commenced to show activity looking toward increases in wages and betterment of conditions in the paper mills. A notice was recently posted in the paper mills of the Crocker-McElwain company to the effect that beginning May 6 there would be a three-shift crew to operate the machines, each crew to work eight hours. The Taylor-Burt company followed suit. This change of working plan was not followed with a cut in wages, the men working eight hours receiving the same wages as formerly when working 11 and 13 hours. It is given as a further reason for this concession that organization among the paper mill workers has been steadily advancing and that the mills are fairly well organized at the present time.

FIREMEN WANT RAISE

Washington, May 11.--The locomotive firemen and hostlers employed on the railroads east of Chicago, and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers have submitted to the conference committee of the railroad managers a schedule of wages which calls for general increases in all classes of the service. There is also a demand for a day's work of 10 hours or less, or runs of 100 miles or less. A stipulation is that all mileage in excess of 100 miles made within 10 hours shall be paid for at mileage rates. Numerous other demands are made, such as requiring assistant firemen on coal burning locomotives in the freight service and also other regulations relative to terminal stopovers.

COMBATING MINERS' DISEASES

Washington, May 11.--The director of the bureau of mines has entered into an arrangement with the public health and marine hospital service whereby one or more surgeons will carry on jointly investigations looking to the improvement of mine conditions. Casual inquiries and investigations have shown the prevalence of tuberculosis and other diseases. The investigation to be made will place the bureau in a position to advise the most efficient methods of preventing diseases peculiar to this industry and also suggest such precautions in the conduct of mines that will reduce to a minimum the danger of the contraction of disease.

NOVELTY WORKERS PROGRESSING

Oshkosh, Wis., May 11.--Members of the local union of the Travellers' Goods and Leather Novelty Workers' International Union of Newark, N. J., have received a 10% increase in wages and recognition of the union after a 4 weeks strike, 90 members being involved. The local union of this craft in Toronto, Canada, also has received an increase of 5% without difficulty. The Bag and Suitcase Makers of greater New York were recently organized.

ALABAMA STATE FEDERATION

Birmingham, May 11.--The twelfth annual convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor will be held in Anniston, Ala., beginning May 20. A large number of delegates are expected to be in attendance.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION INCREASES

Detroit, May 11.--Since January 1, 1912, wages of street and electric railway employes have been increased upon the various organized systems in Youngstown and Niles, O.; Newcastle, Sharon, Butler and Wilkes Barre, Pa.; Wheeling, W. Va.; Des Moines, Iowa; Winnipeg, Minn.; Hudson, N. Y.; Galesburg, Ill.; Madison, Wis.; Montpelier, Vt., and Cumberland and Frostburg, Md., in all affecting 2,350 members of the Amalgamated Association. The rate of increase ranges from 8% to 20%. The aggregate annual increase is approximately \$100,000.

BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS

Indianapolis, May 11.--The following local unions of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers received the following increases on May 1, 1912. Local No. 13, Philadelphia, Pa., received an increase from 56¢ per hour to 60¢ per hour. Local No. 6, Syracuse, N. Y., received an increase in wages from 56¢ to 60¢ per hour. Local No. 1 Chicago, Ill., with a membership of 1,000 secured an increase in wages from 66¢ per hour to 68¢ per hour, the agreement to run for three years.

PROMOTING SAFETY MEASURES

Washington, May 11.--Secretary of War Stimson has ordered an inquiry to ascertain the number of life boats on all army transports, and has instructed the quartermaster's department to equip vessels with boats where they are found lacking, and to direct regular drills in manning them and in taking on passengers. These drills will be performed before each sailing and at least once a week while at sea.

BROTHERHOOD OF CEMENT WORKERS

San Francisco, May 11.--During the month of April five charters were issued by the American Brotherhood of Cement Workers located at Moberly and Springfield, Mo.; Little Rock, Ark. and Dayton and Hamilton, O. The cement workers of San Rafael, Cal., have secured an increase of 50¢ per day.

FORT WORTH BAKERS

Fort Worth, May 11.--The union bakers, on strike for a fair wage, after being refused any concessions by the master bakers, are making progress. Four of the shops on strike have just capitulated and the men have returned to work.

ASBESTOS WORKERS

St. Louis, May 11.--The local union of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers at Cleveland, O., has just secured an increase in wages of 5¢ per hour.

STRIKE AT STOVE WORKS

Reading, Pa., May 11.--The employes of the stove works in this city are on strike. A long list of grievances is the cause of the men leaving their work.

RAILWAYMEN'S FUSION SCHEME FAILS

London, May 11.--The decision of the officials of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants to extend the time for the conclusion of the ballot on the railway fusion scheme to May 31, means that they have failed to get the scheme for creating the United Society of Railwaymen ratified by 75 per cent of their members, in spite of a special campaign which has been undertaken to whip up enthusiasm and votes. The act under which trade unions are registered requires a seventy-five per cent majority before a reorganization of the nature contemplated can be sanctioned. Desperate efforts will be made by the officials during the next four weeks to get a sufficient number of favorable votes cast.

UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS

Springfield, Mass., May 11.--An organization of textile workers in Bondsville, Mass., has been effected. A local union of this craft has also been effected at Chicopee Falls. About 50 unorganized weavers, recently went on strike for an increase in wages at Munson, Mass., and after two days the company acceded to their demands and an organization is now in process of formation.

ORGANIZE STATE CARPENTERS' COUNCIL

Jacksonville, Fla., May 11.--Delegates from carpenters' unions from every part of the state convened in this city recently and organized a State Carpenters' Council. President Huber of the United Brotherhood was here and assisted in the organization. The next convention will be held in Key West in May of next year.

COTTON OPERATIVES STRIKE

Worcester, Mass., May 11.--Eight hundred operatives of a North Village cotton mill have gone on strike following the refusal of the company to grant a further increase in wages of 5%. A month ago the employes struck for a 10% increase and secured 5%, and they now demand the other 5%.

SEATTLE TAILORS

Seattle, May 11.--The Journeymen Tailors' union of this city is certainly doing things. A campaign which was started only a short time ago has resulted in signing up 21 houses for a new wage scale and a shortening of hours, and 18 of these firms are now conducting eight-hour shops.

ORGANIZE ALUMINUM FACTORY

Kansas City, Mo., May 11.--The Iron Molder's Union has unionized the Kansas City aluminum manufacturing company. This concern manufactures kitchen utensils and will use the union label on its product in the future.

The British Trade Union Congress to be held this year has been fixed for Sept. 2 and following days at Newport, Mon. Mr. W. Thorne, M. P., is to preside, and nominations for the Parliamentary Committee, etc., must be in the hands of Mr. C. W. Bowelman, M. P., the secretary, before June 10.

URGES INCREASE FOR TEACHERS

Washington, May 11.--The United States bureau of education is about to issue a pamphlet in which an urgent plea is made for an increase in the salaries now being paid instructors in public institutions of learning. The report deals with the years 1900-1910 inclusive, and calls attention to the fact that although the salaries of male instructors were increased 38% in that time and the salaries of female teachers 27%, the average wage is about \$500 per year, or less than \$10 a week. The commissioner of education maintains that it is impossible to procure competent teachers at such menial wages. In most of the states less than 10% of the teachers have had the advantage of university training.

NEW SUBSIDIARY COINS

Washington, May 11.--A 3¢ piece and a 1¢ penny piece will make their appearance and the old copper pennies will be withdrawn from circulation if a bill that has passed the house receives the sanction of the senate and president. The bill, as originally presented, provided only for a 3¢ piece, in response to a demand from the city of Cleveland, O., which has a 3¢ fare on street cars. When the measure was submitted to the secretary of the treasury a report was made suggesting that provision also be made for a 1¢ piece. It is maintained that it is desirable that the public shall have the use of as many denominations of subsidiary coin as are needed to best conserve its convenience.

ANTHRACITE MINERS' CONVENTION

Washington, May 11.--The convention of the anthracite miners to take under consideration the report of the conference committee, having had in charge the negotiations looking toward an increase in wages and improved conditions, will convene in Wilkes Barre, Pa., on May 14. Sentiment on the question of ratifying the action of the conference committee appears to be somewhat divided, and it is therefore difficult to forecast what the final action of the convention will be.

PLUMBERS ON STRIKE

Packskill, N. Y., May 11.--The plumbers of this city made a demand on the master plumbers for an increase of 50¢ per day and the Saturday half holiday, but were refused the concessions. As a consequence the organization is on strike to enforce its demands.

INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Washington, May 11.--President Hompers appeared before the committee on insular affairs of the house recently and advocated the passage of the bill now under consideration which, if enacted into law, will grant citizenship to the people of Porto Rico.

PRINTERS ON STRIKE

Pittsfield, Mass., May 11.--The members of the Typographical union of this city have struck the offices of the Pittsfield Eagle, the Eagle Publishing Company, the Sun Printing Company, the Pittsfield Journal and the Journal Printing Company.

MUSICIANS MEET OPPOSITION

St. Louis, May 11.--The managers of 27 picture and vaudeville shows in this city have formed an association to resist a demand of the local Musicians' union for a raise in wages. The demands of the musicians are for \$20 per man per week, 7 evening performances, and \$1 per man for each matinee, and \$25 for the leader, to apply to all houses charging 10¢ admission. Where 5¢ admission is charged \$16 per week, \$21 for the leader, and \$1 per man each matinee is asked for. Both the musicians and the Employers' Association express themselves as determined to not recede from the positions taken.

DOCTOR KERBY SQUARE WITH LABOR

Washington, May 11.--Rev. William J. Kerby of the Catholic University in speaking before the Catholic Philopatrian literary institute of Philadelphia, lauded the benefit which has accrued to society through the organization of labor unions. He said in part; "The law has long since recognized the principle that laborers may form unions for purposes of mutual protection. Organized labor has rendered to modern society services of which it may be proud. It has awakened discipline, and educated laboring men when none of the other social forces could reach them to do this work."

PREACHERS WANT MINIMUM WAGE

Boston, May 11.--A movement which aims to make \$1,000 the minimum salary of clergymen in the Methodist Episcopal church, has been launched here by a member of the board of foreign missions. In support of the statement that preachers are underpaid a declaration is made that of the 101 churches in a certain district in New England, only 12 pay their pastors more than \$700 a year. It is further stated that one-half of the churches are paying far less than a living wage.

PROPOSES ELECTION OF JUDGES

Washington, May 11.--A constitutional amendment which provides for the election of federal judges, has been proposed in the house by Representative Neely of Kansas. The resolution would limit the tenure of office of district judges to six years and provides for their selection by the regularly qualified voters of the district. Its provisions do not change the existing and constitutional method of electing the judges of the superior federal courts.

COMPENSATION INCREASED

Washington, May 11.--News has been received that the New Brunswick legislature has amended the workmen's compensation act, increasing the compensation to be paid for a workmen's life from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

PRINTERS GAIN INCREASE

Cleveland, May 11.--The new scale of the Typographical union, which went into effect on May 1, provides for a general increase of \$2.55 per week. Double headers on Sunday papers have been abolished.

OPPOSE EIGHT HOURS ON PANAMA CANAL

Washington, May 11.--The secretary of war is authority for the statement that legislation now pending applying the eight hour law in the factories of all contractors who supply machinery and material of all kinds used in the construction of the Panama canal would delay the opening of the canal and interfere seriously with the plans of the big steamship companies for the early use of the waterway, as well as with commerce generally. It is not believed that the question interjected by the secretary of war will become a serious obstacle in the way of the passage of the eight-hour bill in the senate. It is reported that the canal will be completed some time during next year, and therefore the question of eight-hours, as applied to the construction and materials therefor, will resolve itself into what might be termed a temporary one.

PRIVATE SECRETARIES GET INCREASE

Washington, May 11.--The house, while considering the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill added an amendment increasing the salaries of private secretaries to members of the house from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per annum. Heretofore it has been the custom of the government to allow each member of congress \$1,500 per year for clerical assistants, and it has transpired that in some instances, at least, that the money appropriated for this purpose has not been expended in the manner intended. In other words, it is claimed that there has been in vogue a practice of "pooling", whereby several members utilize the same clerk and then pro rate his salary. An amendment was proposed and adopted providing that the clerks to members of the house shall be placed on the rolls, thus making former practices impossible.

CHILDREN IN BRITISH SHOE FACTORIES

Washington, May 11.--In Great Britain no employer is allowed to engage any child under 14 years of age in shoe factories and all children under 16 years obtaining employment are obliged to pass a medical examination. The employer is compelled by law to notify the medical examiner appointed by the government immediately upon employing the child. The cost of such examination is paid by the employer. About the same percentage of child labor is found in the British as in the American shoe factories, and they fill like positions.

CIGARMAKERS' REFERENDUM

Washington, May 11.--A referendum vote is now in progress in the International Cigarmakers' Union on the question of holding a convention, the vote to close on May 10. The cigarmakers have not held a convention in 16 years and should a convention be voted by the membership it will be held in Baltimore next September.

FREIGHT HANDLERS OUT

Chicago, May 11.--Six thousand freight handlers on 24 railroads are on strike. The men asked for an increase of 95 per month for all men employed by the month and a raise of 1¢ an hour for those working by the hour.